Rising unemployment due to globalisation

2029. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that industrial slow-down and globalisation are responsible for the rising unemployment in the country;

(b) whether Government are also aware that prolonged joblessness had led to frustration and discontentment among the unemployed youth and pose a big problem for the country; and

(c) if so, why Government and the private sector are bent upon to cut jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Due to globalisation and economic liberalization some employment opportunities in the older type of enterprises might have been reduced due to declining efficiency but at the same time fesh employment opportunities are being created in a number of new areas such as information technology, tourism, financial services etc.

The approach to the Tenth Plan focuses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The. growth strategy for the future lays emphasis on promoting growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints that discourage growth of employment. Particular attention is paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

Mechanism to look after the interest of senior citizens

2030. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism in the country to look after the interest of senior citizens;

(b) if so, the details of the mechanism; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider the feasibility of evolving a suitable mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRISATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme being administered by the Ministry of Rural Development old age pension is disbursed by States/UTs.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing several schemes for the welfare of Older Persons such as Integrated Programme for Older Persons and Construction of Old Age Homes. Under these schemes, Ministry provides Grant-in-Aid/financial assistance to non-governmental organizations for establishment and maintenance of old age homes, day care centres, mobile medicare units, non-institutional services centres and construction of old age homes and multi service centres. National Policy on Older Persons which was announced in January, 1999 *inter-alia* visualizes support for financial security, health care and nutrition, shelter, emphasis upon education, training and information needs, special attention to protect the life and property, provision of appropriate concessions, rebates and discounts etc. to Senior Citizens.

Old age benefits to Senior Citizens

2031. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the old age benefits provided to Senior Citizens in the country since India has the second largest population of old people in the world; and

(b) what specific benefits are available for those with no regular income so that the aged live with dignity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing several schemes for the welfare of Older Persons such as Integrated Programme for Older Persons and Construction of Old Age Homes. Under these schemes, Ministry provides Grant-in-Aid/financial assistance to non-